

## Uniform Complaint Procedures

## Categorical Programs Complaints Management Unit

School and District Accountability Division



**California Department of Education** 



## **UCP Workshop Overview**

- ☆ Welcome
- **☆ Introductions**
- ☆ Power Point
- ☆ Materials
- **☆** Guided Practice





#### Materials

- \* Agenda
- **★ UCP checklist**
- ★ UCP sample brochure
- ★ Sample CDE letter
- \* Questions and answers
- **★ CDE UCP Contacts**
- **★ Powerpoint presentation**
- **★ Uniform Complaint Procedures**
- \* Title 5 California Code of Regulations



#### What's a UCP Complaint?

- ☆ An allegation about a possible violation of federal and state law or regulation.
- ☆ Related to 5 CCR 4600
- ☆ A way to initiate resolution of noncompliant issues related to the law.



### **UCP Related Programs**

- ★ Adult Education
- ☆ Migrant Education
- ★ Vocational Education
- ☆ Child Care and Development
- ★ Nutrition Services
- ☆ Special Education



# Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs (Federal)

- No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
  - -Title I (Basic Programs)
  - -Title II (Teacher Quality and Technology)
  - -Title III (Limited English Proficient)
  - -Title IV (Safe and Drug Free Schools)
  - -Title V (Innovative Strategies)



# Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs (State)

- ★ School Improvement Program
- ★ Economic Impact Aid, (SCE)
- **★ Economic Impact Aid, (EIA-LEP)**
- Miller-Unruh Special Reading Program
- ☆ Tenth Grade Counseling
- ★ Tobacco Use Prevention Education
- School Safety and Violence Prevention
- ☆ Peer Assistance and Review



#### Special Education

- Public agency (other than a LEA)
  - Fails/refuses to follow provisions for free, appropriate, public education
  - Failure to comply with due process procedures
- ★ The complainant alleges that a student is not receiving services specified in the student's IEP.
- ★ Violation of federal law governing Special Education



#### **Unlawful Discrimination**

## Title 5, California Code of Regulation Section 4610 Civil Rights Protection

Age

Sex

**Sexual Orientation** 

Gender

**Ethnic Identification** 

Race

**Ancestry** 

**National Origin** 

Religion

Color

**Mental disability** 

Physical disability



#### Referrals to Other Agencies

- ★ Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 504
  - Office for Civil Rights
- ☆ Child Abuse
  - Dept of Social Services, Protective Services
  - Local Law Enforcement Agency
- ☆ Health & Safety/Child Development
  - Department of Social Services
- ☆ General Education
  - Local Education Agency



## Referrals to Other Agencies Cont.

#### 

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
- U.S. Dept of Agriculture, West Region

#### **☆Employment Discrimination**

- Dept of Fair Employment & Housing
- Office for Civil Rights

#### **☆Fraud**

CDE Directors or Legal Counsel



## Responsibilities of Local Agency

- Hiring and evaluation of staff
- ★ Classroom assignments
- ★ Student advancement and retention
- Selection/provision of textbooks and materials
- ★ Student discipline
- Provision of core curricula subjects
- ★ Facilities
- Graduation requirements
- ★ Homework policies and practices
- Use of general education funds
- ★ Dress codes and school uniforms



## Filing A Complaint

Who can file?



Any individual, public agency, or organization is eligible to file.



# Complainant's Responsibilities

- ★ Receive and read the annual written notice of UCP from the district
- ★ Follow steps of the district UCP complaint procedures
- ★ File your complaint in writing with the district's complaint officer



# Complainant's Responsibilities

- Appeal to the state agency for resolution (within 15 days) if dissatisfied with the local agency decision.
- ☆ Appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) if dissatisfied with state agency's determination.
  - ★ Federal Programs
  - ★ U. S. Dept. of Education



## Local Agency Responsibilities

- ☆ Comply with statutes and regulations.
- Adopt policies and procedures to resolve complaints.
- ☆ Protect complainants against retaliation.
- ★ Ensure confidentiality for discrimination complaints.
- ★ Designate a responsible staff position for receiving complaints.



### Local Agency Responsibilities

Distribute annual notification regarding the local procedures to:

students,
employees,
parents,
committees, and
other interested parties.



### **Notification Requirements**

- Statement of purpose
- Identification of who to file complaint with
- Description of complaint procedures
- Applicable primary languages
- ☆ Civil law remedies



#### Local Agency Responsibilities

- Investigate/mediate and report to complainant within 60 days.
- Give complainant an opportunity to present relevant information.
- Prepare and forward written report of decision to complainant.
- ★ Advise complainant of 15-day appeal rights timeline in the report.



### Local Agency Responsibilities

If the local decision is appealed, CDE will review the appeal, and may request the district to provide the following information:

- ★ The original complaint
- ★ Copy of local decision
- Summary of local investigation
- Action taken to resolve original complaint
- **☆** Copy of UCP procedures
- Other relevant information



### **CDE Responsibilities**

The CDE WILL REFER all correspondence to the local agency if the complaint was not originally filed with the local agency.





#### **CDE** Intervention

- ★ The local agency fails to comply with complaint procedures.
- → Discrimination is alleged and/or there is an indication of immediate loss of benefits such as education or employment for students.



#### **CDE** Intervention

- ★ The complainant requests anonymity and has proven retaliation.
- ★ The local agency fails to implement the final decision resulting from a local investigation or mediation process.
- ★ The local agency fails to respond to the complainant within 60 days.



#### Mediation



- \* Trained mediator
- ★ Agreement consistent with laws/regulations
- \* Agreement sent to each party
- ★ Follow-up agreement provisions for compliance
- ★ Completed within 60 days



#### Investigation

- ★ Conduct fact finding sessions
- Meet with complainant(s) and agency personnel
- Investigate and exam information
- Interview agency personnel, parents, and/or students
- ★ Observe classroom activities



### Investigative Report

- \* Allegation
- ★ Legal Authority
- ★ Scope of Investigation
- **★ CDE Factual Review**
- ★ Findings and Conclusions
- **★ Required Actions**





#### Reconsideration of Report

- Within 35 days, either party may appeal to the SPI to reconsider
- ★ SPI has 15 days for reconsideration of report
  - Federal Programs
    - U. S. Dept. of Education



#### Resolution

- ★ Voluntary compliance
- ★ Conditional compliance (probationary eligibility for fiscal support)
- Withholding all or part of state/federal fiscal support
- ★ Compelling compliance through court action



## **UCP Contact Persons**

Adult Education	Mary Tobias Weaver
Child Development	Terry Miller
Nutrition Services	Rae Dalimonte
Consolidated Categoric	al Aid ProgramsCategorical
F	Programs Complaints Management Unit
Indian Education	Andrew Andreoli
Migrant Education	Manuel Alfaro
Special Education	Procedural Safeguards
	and Referral Services Unit
Vocational Education_	Doug Mahr
Nondiscrimination Requ	uirementsSharon Felix-Rochon
and Civil Rights Protect	ions,
Office of Equal Opportu	nity



## Uniform Complaint Procedures

## Categorical Programs Complaints Management Unit

916 - 319 - 0929

Stephanie Papas, Education Programs Consultant
Kathy Hemeon, Education Programs Consultant
Gary Page, Education Programs Assistant
Sally Lewis, Staff Services Analyst
Russ Bates, Office Technician
Glenda Heath, Office Technician



#### **Guided Practice**



- ★ Find your UCP annual notification.
- ★ Find out how and where the UCP notification was disseminated to students, employees, and parents.
- ★ Review the UCP notification using the UCP Checklist.
- ★ Prepare and/or organize UCP information for CCR.



#### **Guided Practice**

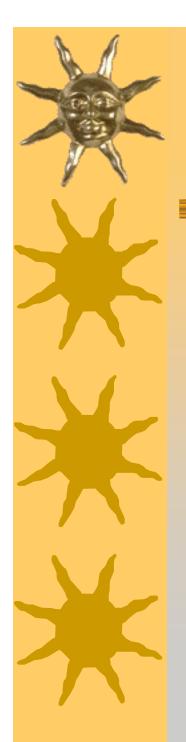
## Uniform Complaint Procedures Checklist 2003-04

- **★ UCP 1** 
  - Evidence of compliance with required provisions of local policy and procedure
- **★ UCP 2** 
  - Evidence of compliance with annual notification requirements
- **★ UCP 3** 
  - Evidence of proper implementation of the mediation and/or investigation process



## **Guided Practice**

Yes	No	Elements
		A statement of purpose regarding compliance with federal and state laws/regulations.
	X <sub>3</sub>	2. Includes all relevant programs implemented in the district and civil rights protections regarding ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, national origin, mental and/or physical disability, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation.



### **Questions?**





#### EXTRA!! EXTRA!!



If you would like to view this information again, please visit our website at:

http://www.cde.ca.gov/ccpdiv

If you do not have access to the Internet, please refer to the printed workshop materials.